

November 6, 2013

Dear Interested Party:

Events DC, on behalf of the District of Columbia, and in partnership with the Spy Museum is proposing to renovate and expand the Carnegie Library building and rehabilitate the public space of Mount Vernon Square. Events DC is an independent authority of the District government that operates the Walter E. Washington Convention Center; owns and/or manages Carnegie Library, Nationals Park, the DC Armory, and RFK Stadium; and promotes the District as a location for meetings and entertainment and sporting events. Upon completion of the proposed project, Events DC would continue to maintain and operate the Carnegie Library building and Mount Vernon Square, and the Spy Museum would become a key tenant of the building. The Maltz Family, founders and owners of the Spy Museum, has committed to gifting the museum to the community as a 501(C)(3) nonprofit in conjunction with seeking a permanent home for the museum.

As proposed, the project would be co-developed by Events DC and the Spy Museum as a public/private partnership. The project proposes to renovate and expand the Carnegie Library building in order to incorporate a new, state of the art Visitor Center for the District of Columbia; provide enhanced quarters for the Historical Society of Washington, DC; provide museum exhibit space to accommodate the relocation of the International Spy Museum to the Carnegie Library; add retail and café space; and improve the open space and circulation patterns of Mount Vernon Square. An addition to the building is proposed that would insert flexible exhibit and storage spaces underground, and a publicly accessible pavilion on the ground level.

The proposed project is subject to the review of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and NCPC will serve as the lead federal agency for an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental impacts of a range of alternatives, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations of Implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and NCPC's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures. Concurrently, NCPC will conduct consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The purpose of the proposed action is to renovate the Carnegie Library building as a visitor attraction, provide additional space for museum and cultural attractions, and enliven the public space of Mount Vernon Square. The proposed action would establish a new destination at Mount Vernon Square and augment the experience of visitors to Washington by offering additional visitor orientation, cultural exhibit space, and public venues. In addition, the proposed

action would provide outdoor amenities for the surrounding neighborhood through physical improvements to Mount Vernon Square.

The proposed action is needed in order to address the deteriorating condition of the Carnegie Library building, expand the city's cultural offerings and attractions, and improve the open space of Mount Vernon Square. Currently, the 110-year old facility is in need of modernization and the existing site design of Mount Vernon Square limits use of the space because it lacks outdoor features.

NEPA requires a public process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying potential significant issues related to the proposed project. Issues describe problems or concerns associated with impacts from current environmental conditions and operations, as well as problems or concerns that may arise from implementation of the proposed project.

The purpose of this letter is to notify members of the community and other stakeholders of an opportunity to assist NCPC, Events DC, and the Spy Museum in identifying potential environmental issues. Your participation in this process is greatly appreciated. For 30 days from the date on this letter, NCPC will accept comments concerning the scope of issues to address in the EA. Interested parties are also invited to participate in the consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA. Comments received during the scoping period will be used to refine alternatives and inform the EA analysis.

A public scoping meeting will be held on November 20, 2013 from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm in the Theodore Roosevelt Room at the Carnegie Library, located at 801 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. Comments will be accepted at the public scoping meeting or can be submitted in writing via mail or email. Please mail or email written comments to:

National Capital Planning Commission
Attn: Jennifer Hirsch
401 9th Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004
jennifer.hirsch@ncpc.gov

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jennifer Hirsch at jennifer.hirsch@ncpc.gov or by phone at (202) 482 – 7239.

Sincerely,



Marcel Acosta
Executive Director
National Capital Planning Commission